

AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: MAY 16, 2007

DEPARTMENT: CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

**DIRECTOR: ELIZABETH FRETWELL,
DEPUTY CITY MANAGER**

Consent Discussion

SUBJECT:

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Discussion and possible action concerning the status of 2007 legislative issues - All Wards

Fiscal Impact

No Impact

Augmentation Required

Budget Funds Available

Amount:

Funding Source:

Dept./Division:

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:

Staff will report on pending legislation of the 2007 Nevada State Legislature

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City council accept the report and direct staff, if necessary

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

Submitted at meeting – May 16, 2007 Legislative Report by staff

Motion made by GARY REESE to Approve to Accept the report

Passed For: 7; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 0

BRENDA J. WILLIAMS, LOIS TARKANIAN, LARRY BROWN, OSCAR B. GOODMAN,
GARY REESE, STEVE WOLFSON, STEVEN D. ROSS; (Against-None); (Abstain-None);
(Did Not Vote-None); (Excused-None)

Minutes:

DEPUTY CITY MANAGER FRETWELL noted that Friday, May 18, 2007, is the deadline for bills to pass out of the second House. The Council adopted a resolution opposing the redistribution or increase of the room tax. The resolution is similar to the one considered by the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority (LVCVA) the previous week. Staff continues to closely monitor the transpiration situation.

She referred to the Legislative Report, copies of which were submitted for the Council and for the minutes, and quickly reported on the status of the listed bills. SB 90, SB 139 and SB 198 passed out of their respective committee 5/15/2007. SB 234 is still tied up in the Assembly Government Affairs because of issues.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: MAY 16, 2007

Staff is working to get it passed by the 5/18/2007 deadline. AB 439 is progressing well.

Regarding AB 514, she indicated that there is an ongoing issue with the salary commission, and staff is not certain that portion of the bill will survive, as the legislators feel the City has enough authority to approve the salaries of the Council. She tried to explain to the legislators that, by not having an independent salary commission, there is an appearance of the Council voting its own raises. Essentially, there is not a lot of appetite to address the situation because the Council has the latitude to approve raises.

MAYOR GOODMAN stressed that the current members of the City Council work very hard and constantly attend meetings, for which they should be fairly compensated. The current salary schedule went into effect before 1999, but it is ridiculous, even though the public may say that elected officials know what they are getting into when they choose to run for office. But Council members should also be treated fairly, and the future elected Council members should have a justifiable wage. Rich people should not be the only ones to be able to hold office. He directed CITY MANAGER SELBY to schedule an item to discuss a salary increase, as well as the possibility of making the Council positions full-time.

COUNCILMAN REESE noted that it is very difficult for people to run for office with the current salary.

At the request of COUNCILMAN WOLFSON, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER FRETWELL gave a history of the efforts to address compensation. About ten years ago the Council created an independent panel to evaluate the workload and the growth of the City. After a thorough study, the panel ultimately recommended a salary increase. The Council's salaries increase annually by ordinance, in accordance with the Consumer Price Index. She conceded that it is very difficult for some people to perform the duties of a Council person, given the increased workload due to growth. DEPUTY CITY MANAGER FRETWELL noted that staff will continue to fight for the section of the bill to create an independent salary commission. MAYOR GOODMAN noted that when the salary increase issue comes before the Council, he is going to vote his conscience, and he does not care how the public feels about it.

As far as SB 149, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER FRETWELL reported that the bill was amended to extend the terms of the next individuals who would be elected to office to transition into the even-year election cycle, with the ultimate implementation being in 2014. Staff is still sharing concerns about the bill with the Assembly members regarding the City's desire for the Council seats to remain non-partisan. MAYOR GOODMAN commented that he feels very strongly about the Council seats remaining non-partisan.

Regarding SB 437, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER FRETWELL commented that the Governor vetoed the emergency measure and issued an executive order putting on hold any new applications. A new bill is moving through the legislature that would modify the Green Building/Abatement program. Staff is monitoring it, because it wants to ensure the City has the ability to play a role when the applications are filed, given that there will be a tax consequence.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: MAY 16, 2007

Currently, there is a notification requirement, although the City has not received any notice thus far. Green development is good, but not at the cost of losing revenue needed to provide needed public services.

AB 209, related to taxation, was introduced, and it would require the City to pay taxes for any expansion to the wastewater treatment plant or any other facility that the City might have to locate in the unincorporated County. Staff is working with the sponsor of the bill on an amendment that will mitigate the impact to the City.

Lastly, regarding billboards, AB 120 passed out of committee without the amendment requested by the billboard industry. The committee chairman felt that the City was making progress with the industry. Staff continues to monitor the Arena District bill, which is an amendment to AB 598.

